



E-NEWS from *Congresswoman Jennifer Dunn*

An electronic legislative update for May 23, 2003.

Did you know...

180,000 Americans go to work each day with the primary objective of keeping our homeland secure.



HOMELAND SECURITY SECRETARY TOM RIDGE TESTIFIES BEFORE JENNIFER'S COMMITTEE

The Homeland Security Committee, of which Jennifer is Vice Chair, held a hearing this week on the status of the Homeland Security Department. Jennifer asked Secretary Tom Ridge (pictured below) whether funding for first responders is adequate to meet the needs of small communities in the nation. Secretary Ridge responded by saying that the Department of Homeland Security is looking into ways in which the funding formula could be changed to take into account smaller communities.

To date, Seattle has received almost \$30 million for urban area and port security. Now, Jennifer and Secretary Ridge want to expand first response coverage to less populated areas.



JENNIFER WORKS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL HELP FOR DISLOCATED WORKERS, CONGRESS APPROVES JENNIFER'S BILL

The US House of Representatives has approved Jennifer's bill to extend unemployment benefits by 13 weeks and 26 weeks in high unemployment states, such as Washington State. An estimated 60,000 Washington State workers will benefit from Congresswoman Dunn's legislation. In addition, without this extension, over 20,000 Washington State workers would have lost their federal benefits beginning June 1, 2003.

"Over the past few months, far too many families in Washington State and throughout the nation have lived with the uncertainty of not knowing where the next paycheck will come from and how they will make ends meet. Our nation is still faced with cool economic times, so it is important to provide these workers with some additional help as they continue to look for jobs," said Jennifer

- There are 26.4 million veterans in the US (1 in 8 civilians over age 18 is a veteran).
- 6 percent of veterans are women and 37 percent are seniors.
- Over 15 percent of Washington civilians are veterans (one of the highest ratios in the nation).

This week, the US House passed two measures that benefit veterans. The first piece of legislation will provide COLAs (Cost of Living Adjustments) to veterans and their dependents who receive disability benefits. A second bill will make permanent the VA home loan program for members of the Selected Reserve.



Jennifer recently hosted her annual High School Art Competition, Artistic Discovery, on Mercer Island. Pictured with Jennifer is 2nd place winner, Alicia Plate of Newport High School. 1st and 3rd place winners are Janet Lee of Bellevue High School and Michelle Hwang of Newport High School, respectively. The winning work of art will be displayed in the US Capitol for one year.

CONGRESS APPROVES A JOBS AND GROWTH PLAN THAT WILL BENEFIT FAMILIES, PARENTS AND PROVIDE \$401 MILLION AID TO WASHINGTON STATE

Congress has approved a jobs and growth bill that will stimulate the economy by creating jobs, providing tax relief to individuals, families and parents and reducing the tax on dividends and capital gains. The bill also includes \$20 billion in aid to the states, resulting in a \$401 million benefit to Washington State. Jennifer is a Member of the Ways and Means Committee where the bill originated.

Specifically, the bill reduces taxes on dividends and capital gains to 15 percent. This provision is of particular benefit to seniors, who disproportionately rely on dividend income to meet monthly expenses.

It also accelerates income tax rate reductions for nearly all workers and increases the child tax credit from \$600 to \$1000, resulting in 25 million families receiving checks for at least \$400. In addition, the bill allows small businesses to increase from \$25,000 to \$100,000 the amount they can expense from their taxes, enabling them to put more money back into their businesses or to hire more workers.

The President supports the bill and will sign it before Memorial Day.

Summary of Press Releases

US REP JENNIFER DUNN RELEASES STATEMENT ON BOEING'S SEARCH FOR 7E7 MANUFACTURING SITE

Boeing recently released its list of criteria for sites to be considered for construction of the new 7E7 commercial aircraft. In conjunction with the announcement, Jennifer has spoken several times with Boeing officials about the importance of keeping the 7E7 project in Washington State. She released the following statement:

"I am proud that Boeing calls Washington State home. Boeing is an important part of our economy and it is imperative that our state do everything possible to keep the 7E7 project in the Puget Sound region to create more jobs and strengthen our cool economy."

"I am pleased that Boeing has expressed a willingness to give Washington State first consideration for this project and is giving our state one week advance notice on requirements for building the aircraft in our region. Our Congressional Delegation will work with Governor Locke to make a compelling case for production of the 7E7 in Washington State. I look forward to working with Boeing officials, my Colleagues in Congress and the Governor's office as we move forward in pursuing our goal of keeping these jobs in Washington State."

US REP JENNIFER DUNN ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL \$18.18 MILLION FOR HOMELAND SECURITY IN SEATTLE, \$7.77 MILLION FOR PORT OF SEATTLE

Jennifer recently announced that Seattle will receive an additional \$18.18 million from the Department of Homeland Security for local first responder efforts. These dollars are in addition to \$11.28 million that was released last month. The funds are part of the Urban Area Security Initiative, which provides assistance to cities that are believed to be at high risk for terrorist attacks. In addition, the Port of Seattle will receive a grant for \$7.77 million. These dollars will be directed to enhance security, training, exercises, equipment, planning and information sharing.

US REP DUNN COMMENTS ON INCREASE IN TERROR THREAT LEVEL

Following Secretary Tom Ridge's testimony before the House Committee on Homeland Security, of which Jennifer is Vice Chair, the Administration announced that the United States terror threat has been increased to "orange level," indicating a high risk for attack. Jennifer released this statement with regard to this terror threat increase:

"In addition to my recent discussion with Secretary Tom Ridge, I have had several conversations with him about the status of the Administration's efforts to keep our families safe at home and abroad. I agree with Secretary Ridge that America is safer today than it was prior to September 11, 2001. Our nation, as a whole, is far more vigilant and more aware of factors that could threaten our safety.

"Given recent information gathered by our intelligence agencies, I agree that the Administration was justified in its decision to increase the terror threat level to orange. We do not know of specific threats against us, but increasing the threat level reminds all of us to stay alert and vigilant. While we are still in the midst of our war on terrorism, we are much safer when we are aware that serious threats still exist and that all Americans in the United States and abroad should be particularly aware of their surroundings during this time."